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PLAN OF A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

The following plan of a dictionary is submitted to the public, in the hope that it may be adopted by some person possessing the time and attainments necessary for its due execution. Even a small dictionary, confined to the 1st and 4th heads, would, to our apprehension, be more useful to an intelligent mind than the most voluminous at present extant.

1. The words to be arranged under their roots or primitives, after the plan of Scapula's Greek Lexicon, of Salmon's *Stemmata Latinitatis*, and of Hebrew lexicons in general: a plan which affords so many advantages to the scientific philologist, as to render it surprising that it has not been adopted in every dictionary designed for purposes beyond those of mere school-boy consultation.

2, 3. The denominations of the words, as parts of speech, to be annexed both in the usual terms, and in those of a more accurate nomenclature.

4. The etymologies to be traced *upwards*, from the latest to the earliest, in the lineal ascent of the languages from which they have proceeded. Of this the word *stranger*, which may be easily and satisfactorily traced back to the Greek preposition ΕΚ, would afford a curious and interesting example.

5, 6. The pronunciation, or import of the received orthography, to be expressed both in the usual characters, and by those of a newly-modelled alphabet; the former being designed for common information, and the latter to exhibit, in the most exact and undisguised manner, the combinations and changes of articulated sounds under those of analogous forms. Such an alphabet has been already contrived, and published in a work entitled *Radiography*.*

7, 8. The pulsations and quantities of syllables to be expressed by musical notation. This would be of the greatest use to foreigners; and, to save room, would be shown by references to a tabular classification already adopted in a work entitled, *The Principles of Rhythm in Speech and Music*.†

9. The significations, applications, or uses of words, instead of the indiscriminate manner in which they are commonly arranged, to be classified according to their successive growth, one out of another: as in the following instances, to which perhaps some others might be added.

I. Literal or sensible use, subdivided into

1. Original or primary use.

2. Extended or generic use: as in the words *cock* and *hen*, when signifying *male* and *female* bird.

3. Restricted or specific use: as in the same words *cock* and *hen*, when signifying the *domestic fowl* so called. Of these two uses, sometimes one, and sometimes the other, is prior in the order of time.

4. Consequential use: as in the verb *to open*, when signifying *to show*; because showing what had been concealed is a consequence of opening what had been shut.

5. Metonymic or transferred use: as in the word *glass*, when used for the *liquor* contained in the glass.

6. Good, or laudatory use.

7. Bad, or derogatory use.

8. Compound or complex use: as in the verb *to man*, signifying to furnish with men.

* Printed by Harvey and Darton, London, 1821.

† R. Graisbery, Dublin, 1823.

9. Privative or contrary use: as in the verb *to skin*, signifying *to strip off the skin*. This use is unfrequent, and sometimes originates in irony.

II. Figurative or mental use, under the same subdivisions.

10, 11. A suitable place to be assigned both to synonymes and to what may be termed antonyms or opposites.

All these particulars, though hitherto but partially included, are essential to a complete dictionary. The 1st is confined to the dictionaries already mentioned; the 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th, have been very imperfectly executed; and none of the rest have yet found their way into any dictionaries. We have some good works on English synonymy; but, as to any work on antonymy, though it would be of similar utility, it is wholly a desideratum.

But, of all the particulars here specified, the first is by far the most important. Words are the materials of composition; and in it, as in every kind of fabric, the convenience arising from the orderly pre-disposition of the materials, contributes not a little both to the expedition and excellence of the execution of the work. In dictionaries arranged agreeably to the exclusively alphabetic form, words appear as scattered individuals, and must be sought and sorted before they can be employed; in other books they appear already combined, like stones in a building, in the order peculiar to that particular subject, and must be pulled asunder before they can be arranged in the order peculiar to another subject; but, in a dictionary written agreeably to the plan here proposed, they would appear in families or classes, according to which all their relations and ramifications, their parallel and opposite meanings, their redundancies and deficiencies, and in short, all their properties both of sound and signification, would be presented to the mind in the order most convenient for every possible occasion, and would thus serve to expedite and perfect the attainment of fluency, accuracy, and elegance.

A classification, into genera and species, of radical or primitive words, though more suitable as an appendix to a polyglot dictionary, would be a valuable addition, as contributing to the discovery of the original and total stock of human ideas; to the promotion of greater accuracy in our metaphysical reasonings, for the purposes of which the words of the now ordinary language are utterly inadequate; and to the formation, if possible, of what might be truly called a philosophical language.

EXAMPLE.

Note.—The 3d, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th heads are omitted: the 3d, and 5th, because unintelligible without explanation, and the others because requiring peculiar types.

AIR. Sub. *Aër* Lat. *Aër*. Gr. *ἀήρ*, Heb.

I. 1. The element, &c. see Johnson.

3. The state of the air. Air in motion, a small gentle wind. The open weather.

4. Scent, vapour. Blast, pestilential vapour.

5. Any thing light or uncertain. Vent, utterance. Publication. Music. Poetry. A song. The mien of a person, the look. An affected manner or gesture. Appearance.

II. 5. Intelligence, information.*

* The significations in this example are from Johnson; the arrangement only is original.

AIR. *v. a.*

- I. 8, 1. To expose to the air.
- 8, 3. To warm by the fire.

AIRER. *Sub. of the person.*

- I. 8, 1. He that exposes to the air.
- 8, 3. He that warms at the fire.

AIRY. *Adj.*

- I. 1. Composed of air.
- 3. Relating to the air. High in air.
- 4. Fluttering, loose.
- 5. Light as air, thin. Wanting reality.
- 8. Open to the free air.
- II. 5. Gay, sprightly.

AIRILY. *Adv.*

- I. 5. In a light manner. Jauntily.

AIRLESS. *Adj.*

- I. 1. Wanting air.
- 5. Wanting or deficient in mien or manner.

UNAIRD. *Part.*

- I. 8, 1. Not exposed to air.
- 8, 3. Not warmed.

The two words *airily*, *unaired*, suggested by the plan, are not to be found even in Todd's Johnson; and there are perhaps hundreds, equally legitimate, which have been overlooked in like manner. R.

To the Editor of the Dublin Literary Gazette and National Magazine.

My dear Sir—The following letter may probably interest the readers of your excellent magazine, (if you favour it with a place in your forthcoming number) as much from the analysis of the speeches of certain eminent men of the last century, as from the connexion of many of them with Edmund Burke, whose class-fellow, Dennis, (mentioned in the "Unpublished Remains" which you inserted in your first number,) was the writer. The letter bears no date; but from the character of the handwriting, compared with others of the same individual, appears to have been written at rather an advanced age. Mr. Walker, the gentleman addressed, was, I believe, father of Cooper Walker, Esq. of this city, the accomplished author of "Irish Bards," and other works of interest and research. The writer was ordained shortly after Burke's entrance into political life, and in a great measure owed his preferment in the church, (which was considerable,) to the interest of his illustrious friend.

I am, my dear Sir, faithfully yours,

Φ

Dear Walker—It is neither that I doubt your parliamentary intelligence, or mean to triumph in my good fortune of hearing Hamilton yesterday that I send you an account of yesterday's transactions in the house, but to inform you more particularly of the important debate about raising the popish regiments.

Mr. Rowley made a motion that an humble address of the house should be made to the lord lieutenant, to know if there was any intention to raise popish regiments in this kingdom for the service of any foreign prince or state. The provost opposed the resolution, (with great earnestness in a very methodical discourse,) both from the impropriety of the address and the propriety of the measure, if the court